

# BURGLARY

## DEFINITION

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary in this Program is categorized into three subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of offenses</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000 inhabitants</i>
1999	2,100,739	770.4
2000	2,049,946	728.4
Percent change	-2.4	-5.4

For the ninth straight year, the estimated number of burglary offenses declined; the estimated 2,049,946 offenses nationwide represents the lowest measure since 1969. The Southern States, the Nation's most populous region, recorded the highest burglary volume, 44.2 percent. The Western States followed with 22.5 percent of the Nation's burglaries, the Midwestern States with 20.8 percent, and the Northeastern States with 12.5 percent. (See Table 3.)

Monthly figures for 2000 revealed that the greatest number of burglaries occurred in July and August, and the lowest volume was recorded during February. (See Table 2.26.)

Table 2.26

<b>Burglary by Month</b>					
Percent distribution, 1996-2000					
Month	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
January	8.3	8.4	8.9	8.3	8.2
February	7.6	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.3
March	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.0
April	7.8	7.8	8.0	7.7	7.8
May	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.6
June	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.4
July	9.1	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.2
August	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.2
September	8.6	8.7	8.4	8.7	8.5
October	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.6	8.7
November	8.0	8.2	7.9	8.4	8.2
December	8.6	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.0

Compared to the 1999 national volume, burglary declined 2.4 percent in 2000. By community type, suburban counties experienced the greatest decline, 4.6 percent. Meanwhile, rural counties showed a 0.9-percent decrease in burglary volumes between 1999 and 2000. Collectively, the Nation's cities showed a decline of 2.2 percent in burglary volume. By city group, cities with populations of 100,000 to 499,999 showed the greatest decrease, down 3.2 percent. (See Table 12.)

In 2000, decreases from the previous year's burglary volumes were recorded in all four regions of the United States. The greatest decrease, 5.1 percent, was registered in the Northeastern States. The Midwestern States reported a 3.5-percent decline, and the Southern and Western States recorded burglary volumes decreases of 2.2 and 0.2 percent, respectively. (See Table 4.)

National 5- and 10-year trends indicate burglary was down 18.2 percent from the 1996 level and has dropped 35.1 percent when compared to the 1991 volume.

Rate

National offense rates for burglary in 2000—728.4 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants—were the lowest in more than three decades. The rate was 5.4 percent lower than the 1999 rate, 22.9 percent below the 1996 rate, and had dropped 41.8 percent from the 1991 rate. In metropolitan areas, the burglary rate was reported at 754.9 offenses for every 100,000 in population; cities outside metropolitan areas recorded a rate of 759.2; and rural counties showed a rate of 532.3 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Among the Nation's four regions, the Southern States experienced the highest burglary rate, 903.0 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The Western States reported a rate of 730.3, and the Midwestern States registered a rate of 663.7. The lowest rate, 477.4, was recorded in the Northeastern States. All regions indicated declines in burglary rates compared to the previous year's numbers. The Northeastern Region recorded the greatest decline at 8.2 percent. The Southern and Midwestern Regions showed decreases of 5.9 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively, and the Western Region reported a decrease of 3.4 percent. (See Table 4.)

Nature

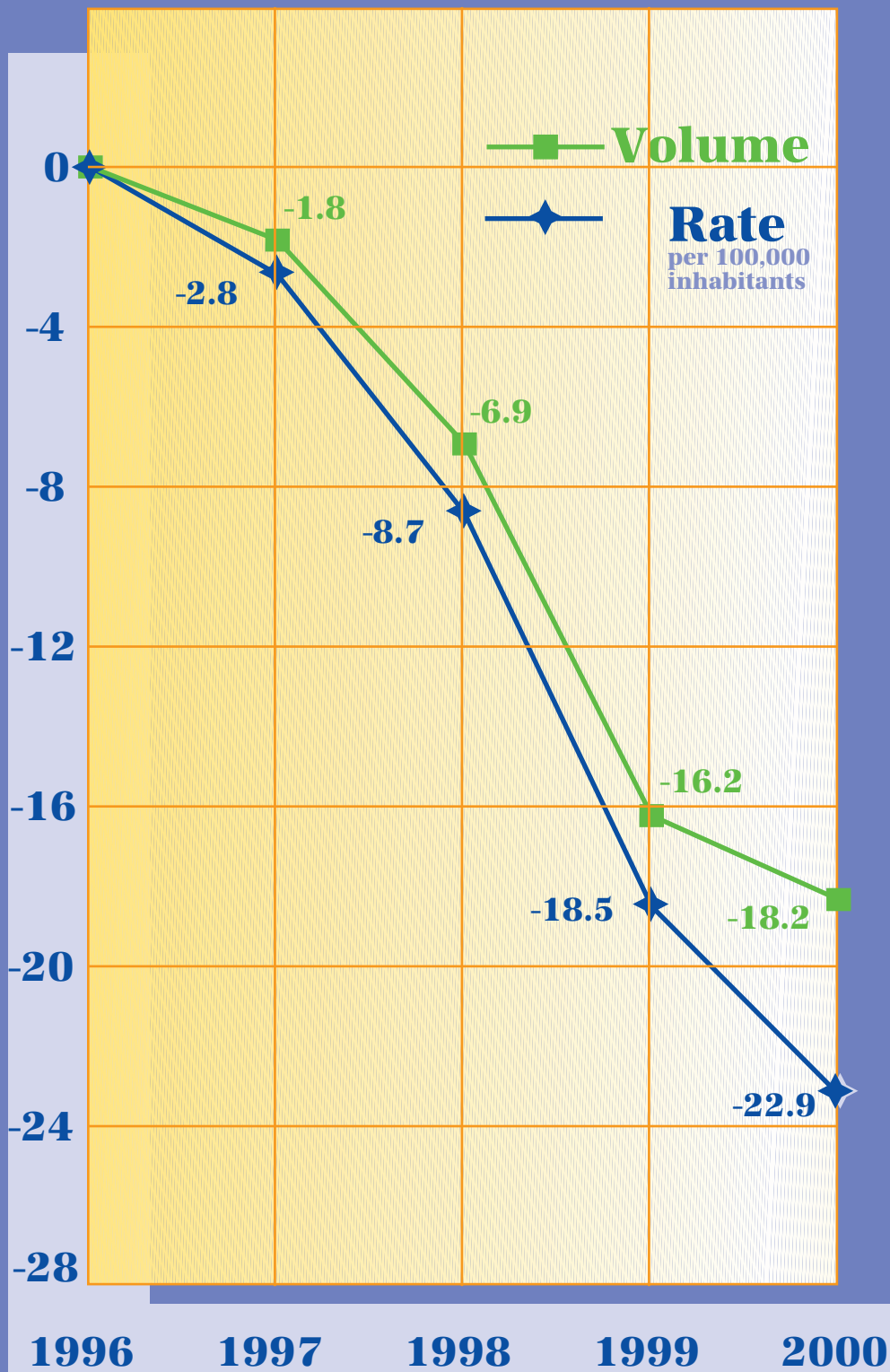
When considering distribution by type of burglary, forcible entry was involved in 63.7 percent of all burglaries in 2000, unlawful entries (without force) made up 29.5 percent of all burglaries, and the remaining 6.8 percent were forcible entry attempts. In 2000, 2 of every 3 burglaries were residential in nature. Offenses for which time of occurrence was reported showed that burglaries occurred more commonly during the daytime, 54.5 percent, than at night, 45.5 percent. Burglaries of residences occurred more frequently during the daytime, 60.7 percent, and burglaries of nonresidences occurred more frequently at night, 57.7 percent.

Victims experienced an estimated loss of nearly \$3 billion in 2000. The average dollar loss per burglary was \$1,462. For residential offenses, the average loss was reported at \$1,381 and for nonresidential burglaries at \$1,615.

Residential burglary volumes declined in 2000, down 3.9 percent from 1999 figures, and nonresidential burglary volumes increased 0.3 percent over the previous year's numbers. (See Table 23.)

FIGURE 2.13

# BURGLARY

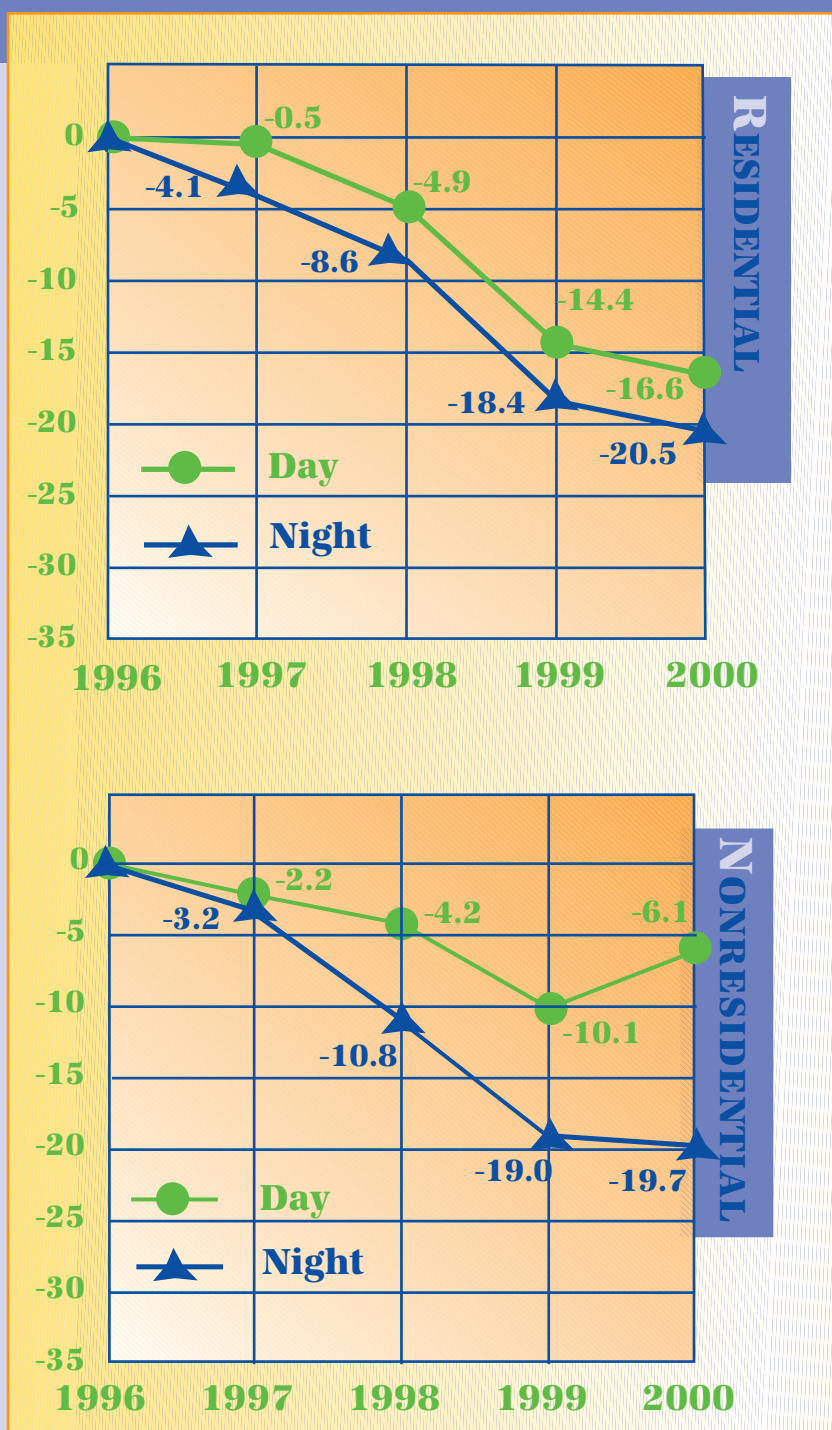


PERCENT CHANGE  
from 1996

FIGURE 2.14

# BURGLARY TYPES

PERCENT CHANGE  
from 1996



## Law Enforcement Response

A clearance rate of 13.4 percent was recorded for burglary offenses known to law enforcement in 2000. By region, the Northeast had a clearance rate of 16.8 percent; the South, 13.7 percent; the West, 12.3 percent; and the Midwest, 11.6 percent. (See Table 26.)

Law enforcement agencies in rural counties cleared 17.0 percent of the burglaries reported in their jurisdictions and suburban county law enforcement agencies cleared 14.0 percent. Cities as a whole cleared 12.8 percent. Cities with populations of less than 10,000 cleared the greatest percentage of burglaries among city types, 16.8. Those cities with populations over 250,000 had the lowest burglary clearance rate, 11.1. (See Table 25.)

Adult offenders were involved in the highest percentage of burglary clearances, 80.8 percent. Juvenile offenders (people under 18 years of age) were involved in the remaining 19.2 percent of clearances. The highest measure of juvenile clearances occurred in the Nation's smallest cities (under 10,000 in population) with 24.8 percent. Juveniles made up 20.8 percent of the burglary

clearances in suburban counties. In both cities as a whole and rural counties, juveniles comprised 19 percent of clearances. (See Table 28.)

In the UCR Program, several persons may be arrested in connection with the clearance of one crime, or the arrest of one individual may clear numerous offenses. The latter is often true in cases of burglary, for which an estimated 289,844 arrests were made in 2000.

Total burglary arrests were down 3.4 percent from 1999. Arrests of juveniles and adults declined by 5.0 and 2.6 percent, respectively. Burglary arrests in the Nation's cities overall fell 4.6 percent for the same timeframe. In rural counties, burglary arrests declined slightly, 0.5 percent, and arrests for the same offense in suburban counties were up 0.4 percent.

Males comprised the greatest number of arrestees for burglary, at 86.7 percent of the total, in 2000. The majority of arrestees were persons under the age of 25, 63.8 percent. By race, whites accounted for 69.4 percent of all persons arrested for burglary, blacks for 28.4 percent, and other races for the remainder.